

FALL 2024 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





James T. Genovese (1971)
President
Northwestern State University

Dear alumni:

It's a new day at Northwestern State University! Since taking office, the NSU students, faculty and staff have welcomed me and Mrs. Martha will open arms and the support from alumni and the community has been tremendous. I have learned so much about our alma mater and I couldn't be prouder to be in a position to lead the university back to a place of prominence.

This semester's enrollment is at 8,523 students, which indicates that enrollment is becoming more stable. Campus housing is at 99 percent occupancy with over 1,400 students living on campus. On-campus enrollment – students who live on campus and attend classes in Natchitoches – represents 44 percent of the total enrollment, the highest since 2019. It's energizing to see students walking the campus, gathering in the Student Union and participating in campus activities, but we must continue to "prime the pump" and get the word out about how special NSU is and the opportunities available here. You, alumni, play a part in that.

This is a great moment for Northwestern. There is a renewed sense of energy and purpose on campus. The future is bright, and we should all be proud of where we are headed. Homecoming is coming up Oct. 25-26 with a few special events planned that weekend. I hope to see you there. Please go forth and spread the word about NSU!



Jill Bankston (1997)
Director
Alumni & Development

There is no place like HOMEcoming, especially in Demonland!

What a blessing for us to live and visit a place where we have Demon Football, symphonies, festivals on brick streets, parties on the Cane, and 140 years of long-standing traditions that make us unique. I think about the die-hards that have come back for Homecoming every year, even in hard times. I asked them, "What pulls you here on gameday and back again?"

They responded, "It's the spirit of Demonland on a beautiful afternoon that starts with tailgating. The President who brings his dog to welcome fans. Reconnecting with teammates or an ole frat buddy. The smell of gumbo and grilling, the sounds of "How ya doing?" and southern music. Kids running and balls flying. It's talking about 'back in the day,' what we got away with and when we didn't. The team following the cheerleaders through the faithful at the 'Demon Walk.' It's watching your own kid follow in your footsteps, marching down the hill to enter Turpin Stadium as a member of the Spirit of Northwestern, thinking to yourself, "Dang, that went by fast." Now, it's GAME ON when we support the players who work so hard. Our encouragement is important to NSU and Natchitoches."

It's a celebration of the 140 years of people who left Northwestern better than they found it, in honor and memory of those who made NSU awesome. It's commemorating our inheritance, rejoicing in the day and having confidence that you can make a difference in our future. To our Freshmen: Welcome to your NEW HOME. It's not just an address. This magnificent place is what YOU create it to be. Make it your treasure! To our alumni, friends, family, faculty and staff: Welcome HOME! If you haven't visited Demonland, come on back, you're in for a TREAT!

Read the Columns online by scanning this QR code.



northwesternstatealumni.com

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Bossier City, 1986, 2016
1st Vice President.....Dr. Nikki Ceaser-Small,
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2nd Vice President.....J. Scott Repp, McKinney, Texas, 1989
Secretary.....Dr. Lisa Landry Mathews, Shreveport, 1992
Treasurer.....Kimberly Martin, Houston, 1988
Past President.....Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

NSU President.....James T. Genovese, 1971
Executive Vice President/
Chief of Staff.....Dr. William Drake Owens, 2004, 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Celestine.....Shreveport, 1989
Tommy Chester.....Natchitoches, 1969
Monty Chicola.....Alexandria, 1979
Shade Dufrene.....Savannah, Texas, 1999, 2003
Allen Evans.....Shreveport, 1989
John Evans.....Natchitoches, 1992
LaTasha Gray-Grant.....Mansfield, Texas, 2007
Emilyn Horton.....Natchitoches, 1987, 1993, 2001
Lynn Kees.....Coppell, TX 1983
Emilie King.....Shreveport, 2017
Jeremy LaCombe.....New Roads, 1999
Lane Luckie.....Tyler, Texas, 2008
Waylon Metoyer.....Pflugerville, TX 2008
Virginia Monceret.....New Roads, 2001
Mandi Mueller.....New Orleans, 2009
Camille Nunez.....Slidell, 2001
Joe Robertson.....DeQuincy, 1990
Mark Spikes.....League City, Texas, 1991
Joseph B. Stamey.....Natchitoches, 1983
Crystal Hemphill Stewart.....Natchitoches, 1997, 2003
Toni Stroud.....Natchitoches, 1989
Glenn Talbert.....Shreveport, 1964
Jim Villard.....Alexandria, 1983

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Brungart.....Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Leonard Endris (deceased).....Leesville, 1974
Dr. Hayward Hargrove.....Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Gail Metoyer Jones.....Natchez 1981, 1998

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

SGA President.....Terrell "TJ" Woodard, Carencro

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Amy Lee, 2019
Cree Roark Gentry, 2022
Design/Layout.....Daphne Hines, 1982, 1984

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Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees – Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) and Students – Reatha Cox, Dean of Students (318-357-5285). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Accessibility and Disability Support Director, Taylor Camidge, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/universityaffairs/police/>. Full disclosure statement: <https://www.nsula.edu/iehr/>.

III | NORTHWESTERN STATE

Launch Your Career with IBM i and Artificial Intelligence at Northwestern State University.



NSU partners with IBM to launch groundbreaking AI course

NSU is set to launch a pioneering artificial intelligence programming course in partnership with IBM, one of the world's tech leaders. NSU is the first and only institution to be recognized as a success story by IBM Power Skills Academy.

Starting in Spring 2025, NSU's School of Business will offer "IBM Power Systems Programming with Emphasis on AI in Business Applications," a course designed to equip both traditional students and professionals with advanced AI and programming skills.

Offered online through both flexible and real-time formats, the course will focus on AI applications in business and RPG IV programming. In collaboration with IBM, this career-focused training addresses the growing need for skilled professionals, preparing participants to excel in the rapidly advancing tech industry.

"This course will allow students to gain exposure to IBM technology, which they can apply directly in their careers," said Dr. Curtis Penrod, director of NSU's School of Business. "The integration of AI concepts will strengthen their ability to compete in the future workforce."

The partnership with IBM was made possible by Monty Chicola, founder of Real Vision Software and a prominent IBM business partner. Chicola, who earned his degree in Computer Information Systems in 1979, will serve as the course instructor. With his vast experience in IBM solutions, Chicola's leadership ensures students will receive a top-tier education in AI and programming.

"I can confidently say that our collaboration with IBM represents a pivotal step for Northwestern in advancing

technological education," said Chicola. "Students are immersed in hands-on learning that prepares them for real-world challenges, mastering IBM i's integrated (operating) system and exploring the transformative power of artificial intelligence. This course not only builds technical expertise but also provides a globally recognized IBM certification badge."

"We are thrilled to partner with IBM to bring cutting-edge technology education to our students," said NSU President James Genovese. "The launch of our first course using the IBM curriculum, with a focus on artificial intelligence and RPG IV programming, marks a significant milestone for Northwestern and the state of Louisiana. This collaboration not only enhances our curriculum but also positions

our students to be leaders in the rapidly evolving tech industry. We look forward to expanding this partnership and continuing to offer innovative educational opportunities that prepare our graduates for the future."

For individuals interested in enrolling as a non-degree seeking student, a step-by-step enrollment guide can be found by visiting <https://nsu.la/IBMApplly>.

In addition to its focus on AI, NSU's Computer Information Systems program offers comprehensive degree options, including concentrations in Application Development, Information Systems Management and Networking and Cybersecurity. The program has been recognized for its excellence in preparing students for the tech sector, offering both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems.

"We are thrilled to partner with IBM to bring cutting-edge technology education to our students."

– NSU President James Genovese

James T. Genovese takes reins as Northwestern's 21st president

Northwestern State University will hold formal investiture ceremonies for James T. Genovese, the university's 21st president, beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. NSU alumni, supporters and friends are invited to join students, faculty and staff in the celebration.

The investiture is one of many special events set to take place during NSU's Homecoming weekend Oct. 25-26 as the university's celebrates the 140th anniversary of its founding in 1884.



President Genovese, a former high school drum major, led the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band in performing the fight song at the first home football game.

Genovese is a former associate justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court. Since taking office in August, he has met with students, alumni and school supporters, toured NSU's campuses in Shreveport, Alexandria and Leesville and participated in many student and community activities.

Genovese is a lifelong resident of Opelousas and a 1971 graduate of NSU. He was a four-year letterman in tennis and was named to Who's Who Among Universities and Colleges, Who's Who Among Greek Fraternities and Sororities of America and Outstanding College Athletes of America. He was also president of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and involved with Interfraternity Council, Student Government Association and intramurals.

Genovese received a juris doctorate from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1974 with honors in property law and engaged in the general practice of law in Acadiana from 1974-1995 where he served as past president, vice president and secretary-treasurer of the St. Landry Parish Bar Association. His judicial career began as a judge ad hoc of the Opelousas City Court from 1975-1989. He was elected district judge of the 27th Judicial District Court for St. Landry Parish in 1995 and served as district judge through 2004, whereupon he was elected to the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal. He served on the appellate court from 2005-2016. He was elected Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, commencing January 1, 2017.

Genovese was a panelist, speaker and lecturer at conferences and continuing education seminars on recent updates, professionalism, ethics, summary judgment, writs and appeals, practices and procedures of the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of

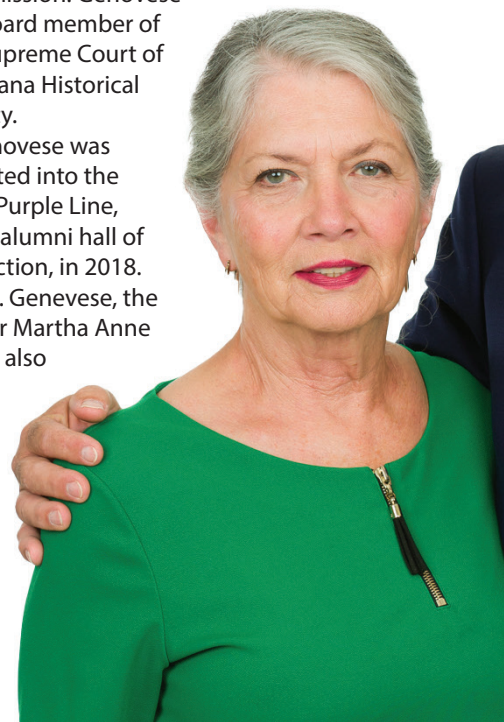
Appeals and judicial review in the Louisiana Supreme Court. He served on the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Council Appellate Court Work Point Values Working Group and the Trial Court Committee to Review the Need for Judgeships and as chairman of its Long-Term Subcommittee and was the Supreme Court's Appointee to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission. Genovese is a board member of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society.

Genovese was inducted into the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction, in 2018.

Mrs. Genovese, the former Martha Anne Janes, also



The Genovese family were welcomed to campus July 23. From left are Sarah Genovese, President James T. Genovese, First Lady Martha Janes Genovese, Adrienne Genovese and Stephanie Genovese. Daughters Celeste and Elizabeth were unable to attend.



attended Northwestern State as a nursing major, but chose a military career and retired as a staff sergeant in the Air Force. In addition to five daughters, they have four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Following the Investiture, the campus and community will convene at a luncheon and induction program for six new members of the Long Purple Line. The lunch will be at the Natchitoches Events Center. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m. Tickets are available at <https://nsulalongpurpleline.eventbrite.com>.

More information on Homecoming activities and events is available at www.northwesternstatealumni.com.



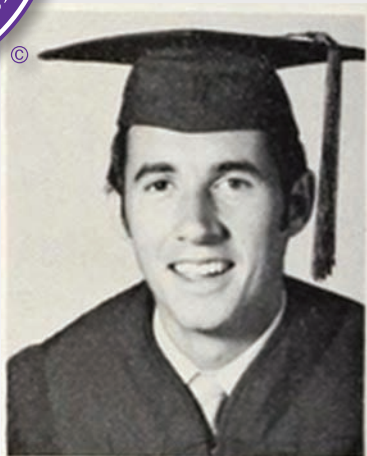
Genovese spoke to students during the President's Picnic that followed New Student Convocation.



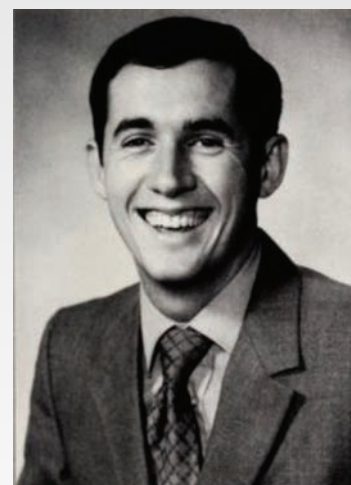
NSU Director of Athletics Kevin Bostian, right, presented President and Mrs. Genovese with a Demon football helmet numbered 21, for Genovese's role as NSU's 21st president.



President Genovese participated in Color Chaos, one of the most popular Demons Days events.



Genovese graduated from Northwestern in 1971 and went on to earn a law degree at Loyola University in 1974



In 1971, he was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities



Jack Brittain Jr.



Henry Burns



Dr. Steve Horton

Six honorees to be inducted into Long Purple Line October 26th

Northwestern State University will induct six new members into its Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. The inductees are the late Jack Brittain Jr., Henry Burns of Haughton and Dr. Steve Horton, Doug Ireland, Dr. Chris Maggio and Robert "Skeeter" Salim, all of Natchitoches.

The inductees will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, Oct. 25 at noon at the Natchitoches Events Center. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m. Tickets are available at <https://nsulalongpurpleline.eventbrite.com>.

Northwestern State has honored 152 alumni with induction into the Long Purple Line.

Brittain was a four-year letterman in football and a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity at NSU graduating in 1979 with a business

administration degree. He graduated from Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU and served as an aide to U.S. Senators J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux.

After leaving government service, he worked as a financial planner in Shreveport. He ultimately returned to his hometown and joined the Brittain Family Law Firm as an attorney at law. After the family law firm closed, Brittain conducted his own practice until his passing in July 2023.

He spent 18 football seasons as the often unconventional, always passionate sideline reporter for the Demon Sports Network. Brittain became NSU's foremost advocate on behalf of his Demon football teammate, the late Joe Delaney, representing the university at Delaney's 2004 Kansas City Chiefs' Ring of Honor ceremony and for many other occasions. His loyalty and service to NSU sports was recognized by the N-Club, the university's association of former athletic letterwinners, in 2013 when he was inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame

on perseverance. Until the late 1980s, Burns was an independent petroleum and natural gas operator. After the oil market crashed, he launched his bakery, The Wooden Spoon. Despite the odds against success and Burns having to learn the business from scratch, the Wooden Spoon was an enormous success for over 22 years. The Wooden Spoon brought Burns many awards from the Bossier Chamber of Commerce including Small Businessperson of the Year in 1994, Outstanding Business of the Year in 2001 and Outstanding Businessperson in 2006.

Horton earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and secondary teacher education from Northwestern in 1988. As a student, he was named Mr. NSU. He earned an M.S. in journalism in 1990 and the Ph.D. in vocational education/communication in 1998, both

from Louisiana State University.

He returned to Northwestern in 1989 as an instructor of journalism and served in various positions on the campus, including director of Alumni Affairs, head of the Department of Journalism, dean of the Graduate School and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He ended his tenure at Northwestern in July 2016 as chief academic officer, dean and professor of education when he was named Executive Director CEO of the

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY LONG PURPLE LINE — 2024 —

as a winner of the Distinguished Service Award. He was noted for his support of a wide range of university endeavors in athletics and academics and the city of Natchitoches.

Burns was a two-term member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from District 9 in Bossier Parish. He served 15 years on the Bossier Parish School Board and is a well-known area entrepreneur. Burns often lectures at public schools on the keys to success in life, with emphasis



Doug Ireland



Dr. Chris Maggio



Robert "Skeeter" Salim

Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

In 2017, Horton was inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Educators at NSU. In 2020, he was named Leadership Professional of the Year for the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children. In 2021 was named national Alumnus Advisor of the Year for Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and in 2022 he was named to the inaugural Greek Life Hall of Fame at NSU and the School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

Ireland has been chairman of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame since 1990, just over a year after he left the Alexandria Town Talk sports staff and launched a 30-year run as the sports information director at Northwestern State, retiring in 2019. Ireland spearheaded efforts leading to construction and the 2013 opening of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches.

During his career, Ireland has earned numerous awards from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, setting an LSWA writing contest record in 1987 with six first places and nine prizes overall. In 2021, he was enshrined in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as a winner of the LSWA's Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism.

Maggio served as NSU's 19th president from 2017 until his retirement in 2021 and was a member of NSU's faculty, staff and

administration for 33 years. Known as a tireless recruiter, Northwestern reached a record enrollment of 11,447 in the fall 2020 semester under Maggio's leadership. The four highest enrollments in NSU history were recorded during Maggio's tenure as president, and the university's economic impact on the region climbed to an all-time high of \$428 million.

Maggio guided Northwestern through one of the most challenging periods in its 140-year history when the school transitioned in the spring of 2020 to predominantly online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to becoming president, Maggio served the university in a variety of roles including, vice-president for the Student Experience, assistant vice-president for External Affairs, dean of students and assistant provost, director of Alumni and Development, director of Enrollment Services, director of Admissions, assistant athletic director, and head women's track and field and cross country Coach.

Maggio is a 1985 summa cum laude graduate of Northwestern State and was chosen as Mr. NSU.

Salim is a 1972 graduate of NSU where he earned a degree in political science and history. He was a Dean's List student and member of the tennis team lettering for four years. After graduation, he attended Loyola Law School, graduated in 1976 and was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar.

While in law school, he clerked for Dodd & Barker and Donald G. Kelly.

He is a member of the Natchitoches Parish Bar Association, Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, American Association for Justice, Immaculate Conception Church and a former member of Board of Governors of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Since 2007, he has been selected as one of the 100 Top Trial Lawyers as determined by The American Trial Lawyers Association. Salim is a founding member of The Class Action Trial Lawyers Association and was recently named to America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators.

Salim's support of Demon baseball has been pivotal for over two decades, resulting in significant facility enhancements and more. He has also been a significant supporter of men's and women's basketball through the years. Salim's engagement with Demon baseball began in the John Cohen era and his involvement was vital to the renovations of Brown-Stroud Field led by Cohen in 2000, and improvements large and small since. In 2019, he was inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame as a winner of the Distinguished Service Award.

Salim has established four \$100,000 endowments over the past two years including scholarships in memory of Jerry Pierce, Richard Ware, Brittain and H.N. and Inez Towry.

Tickets to induction luncheon now available at <https://nsulalongpurpleline.eventbrite.com>

2024 Homecoming celebrates Northwestern State then and now



Homecoming 2024 festivities at Northwestern will be Friday, Oct. 25-Saturday, Oct. 26 and will include several very special commemorations as the university marking its 140th year with a new president and renewed vision.

Friday, Oct. 25

10 a.m. - Formal investiture of James T. Genovese as NSU's 21st president, A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

11:30 a.m. - Doors open for Long Purple Line luncheon and induction program, Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second St. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at <https://nsulalongpurpleline.eventbrite.com>. The induction program will begin at noon.

5:30 p.m. - Homecoming parade begins on NSU campus and ends at the Fleur de Lis stage on the downtown riverbank where the Homecoming Honor Court will be introduced and spirit groups will perform.

Saturday, Oct 26

9 a.m. - N-Club Hall of Fame induction, Magale Recital Hall

10:30 a.m. - College of Education and Human Development reception and induction program for Hall of Distinguished Educators, Teacher Education Center. The reception will take place in the TEC Commons. The induction program will begin at 11 a.m. in the Middle Lab School Auditorium.

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - Tailgating at Collins Pavilion - Join other alumni as we gear up to cheer on the Demons. Pricing is \$10 for members of the Alumni Association, \$15 for non-members and \$7 for children under 12. The cost includes one pass through the buffet and two drink tickets.

2 p.m. - Demons kick off against Lamar University in Turpin Stadium. Tickets are available by calling (318) 357-4268.

4 p.m. - Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band half-time show and presentation of the Homecoming Honor Court

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
www.northwesternstatealumni.com
or email alumni@nsula.edu

SAVE THE DATE!

**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BASEBALL ALUMNI REUNION**

Golf, Tailgate Party, NSU Football Game, N-Club HOF (3 NSU baseball alumni inductees), Tour of Athletics Facilities, Meet the Coaches and Players, and more!



**HOMECOMING WEEKEND
OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2024**

More information to come!

Spotlights

Cory Lacek was named to the executive team of Search Marketing Pros, a digital marketing agency, as chief operating officer and will join the firm's new office in Pittsburgh.

Lacek has 13 years of experience as a business leader. His resume includes leading the development efforts for four companies during that time frame, as well as creating and selling his own service business. Lacek earned a master's degree in sports administration at Northwestern State in 2011 and a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal Justice from Slippery Rock University in 2008.



Lacek

Dallas Safari Club announced the hiring of **Scott Fowler** to the position of convention services coordinator. The Natchitoches native earned a degree in business administration this past May after interning with DSC during the 2024 DSC Convention and Sporting Expo where he gained valuable experience providing assistance to the DSC staff and volunteers. At NSU, Fowler was president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Interfraternity Council and Order of Omega.



Fowler

DSC is an organization focused on conservation of wildlife through public engagement, education and advocacy.

Matthew Miles (2008, 2014) was named dean of students at the Mississippi University for Women, starting July 15. The dean of students provides leadership and direction for Housing and Residence Life, Student Life and the Counseling Center. Miles will also serve as a Title IX deputy and chief diversity officer. As dean, he will work with campus and community stakeholders to provide student development and support services.



Miles

He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He holds a Master of Arts in Student Affairs in Higher Education and Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Northwestern State University.

Dr. Regina Stovall Robinson has been selected to serve as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Jarvis Christian University in Texas.

With over four decades of higher education experience, Robinson has spent the past 16 months as assistant vice president for institutional research and effectiveness at Jarvis Christian University. Prior to her present position, she held several roles with Southern University at Shreveport including program director of clinical laboratory science, chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry, dean of Allied Health, assistant vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, and vice chancellor of Research, Sponsored Programs, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. Robinson holds a bachelor's degree in medical technology from NSU, a master's degree in human relations and supervision from Louisiana Tech University, and a Ph.D. in biomedical research from LSU.

iHeartMedia Multi-Platform Group CEO **Greg Ashlock** is moving into a new role as president of a new iHeart Influencer Network.

Ashlock has led the company's Multi-Platform Group since March 2021 overseeing all of the company's programming, sales, marketing, HR and engineering/IT departments. He previously has held roles as President of iHeart's Markets group, Division President, EVP/Operations, Market President for Los Angeles, and General Manager of the 570 KLAC, 640



Robinson



Ashlock

KFI, and 1150 KXTA. He has also worked for the Los Angeles Dodgers and currently sits on the Board of Directors for BMI and the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission.

In his new role, Ashlock will be "focusing specifically on creating innovative cross-platform partnerships between our influencers, marketers and brands".

Ashlock earned an undergraduate degree in journalism at Northwestern State in 1991 and a master's from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication. He was inducted into the Long Purple Line in 2016.

Joan S. Tilghman (1986) has been promoted from interim dean to permanent dean of the College of Health Professions at Coppin State University in Baltimore. She has held several leadership positions with the university including program chair, associate dean, and founder of the university's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program.

Dr. Tilghman holds a bachelor's degree in nursing science from North Carolina A&T State University. She earned a master's degree in nursing from Northwestern State and a Ph.D. in transcultural nursing from the University of Miami.



Tilghman

Dr. Vanessa Lopez-Littleton (1998) has been named dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies at University of Washington Bothell effective Nov.

1. Lopez-Littleton has nearly three decades of leadership and management experience in higher education, public service and health care. A native of Shreveport, Lopez-Littleton received her doctorate from the University of Central Florida, her Master of Public Administration from Louisiana State University and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern State. She was honorably discharged from the United States Army and received the Montgomery GI Bill.



Lopez-Littleton

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Chef Sheri L. Raleigh (1982) received a grant from the Texas Food and Wine Alliance to produce Vol. 2 of a digital cookbook, "Gifts from the Creole Ancestors – Creole Celebrations."

Raleigh is a chef, instructor, cookbook author and owner of Cast Iron Skillet Culinaire in Waco, Texas, a culinary edutainment service that provides leisure cooking classes and team building activities for small groups and businesses. While specializing in Creole cuisine, she has cross-cultural experience teaching community cooking classes for educational, healthcare and hospitality organizations.

Raleigh earned a degree in home economics/dietetics and institutional management. She earned a master's degree in human relations and business from Amberton University in Garland, Texas. She began her career in healthcare,



then moved into public education, working in school nutrition for 18 years, before pivoting to teach culinary arts in 2004. She

also had a part-time job with H-E-B Grocery, Cooking Connections, and began collaborating with another H-E-B chef in hosting private chef events, which led her to establish Cast Iron Skillet Culinaire in 2012.

In 2021, Raleigh developed "Gifts from the Ancestors," an African foodways project that explores how West African foodways influenced Creole cuisine and along the way inspired two cookbooks.

"Gifts from the Ancestors, Vol. One, Okra and Tomatoes," is followed by "Gifts from the Ancestors, Vol. Two, Creole Celebrations." Both are available in digital format at www.giftsfromtheancestors.com. The cookbooks can also be accessed at www.giftsfromtheancestors.com.

Raleigh's cooking blog can be accessed at <https://www.castironskilletculinaire.com/>

"In Good Taste"

2nd Edition of Cookbook



The cookbook is available for purchase online at <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/ingoodtaste/>

Cost: \$25 (plus \$3 shipping and handling fee)

Proceeds will support scholarships for students.

Bailey sworn in as judge

The South Carolina Senate confirmed **R. Allyce Bailey** (2011) as a Richland County Magistrate Judge. Bailey, who most recently served as the Deputy County Attorney for Richland County, the state's second largest county, began her term July 1 with a formal investiture July 12.

A native of LaPlace, Bailey earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and political science at NSU where she was a President's List student and engaged in numerous activities and organizations including Purple Pizzazz Pom Pon Line (Lieutenant), Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Presidential Leadership Program, Blue Key Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, Purple Jackets Honor Society (President), Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (President) and Demon Volunteers-in-Progress. She earned her juris doctor degree cum laude from Southern University Law Center where she was editor-in-chief of the Journal of Race, Gender and Poverty.

Bailey served as the Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, before a varied private practice involving both criminal defense, plaintiff civil litigation and complex civil litigation trial practice at a large regional firm. She entered public service in 2020 serving as an assistant city attorney for the City of Columbia, before having the

opportunity to serve as the deputy county attorney for Richland County.

She serves as president-elect of the S.C. Women Lawyers Association and circuit representative and CLE/membership chair for the National Bar Association affiliate S.C. Black Lawyers Association. She is president of the Brookland Academy Parent Teacher Organization and a board member for the Elmwood Park Neighborhood. She has also published legal scholarship in the Journal of Race, Gender and Poverty, NBA Magazine, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law Journal for Social Justice and other publications.

Bailey is married to Tyler Bailey and mother of two boys, Tyler Jr. and David Christian.



Allyce Bailey

Jamaican author and educator **Frances-Marie Coke** (2015) hosted the launch of her latest book, "When Banana Stains Fade" at Port St. Lucie, Florida, earlier this year. This multi-generational saga follows a Jamaican family grappling with a cycle of early pregnancies that each generation of women seems unable to break. Part of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Caribbean American Cultural Group (CACG), a South Florida non-profit dedicated to preserving Caribbean culture.

Coke, born in Jamaica, has a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology from the University of the West Indies, Mona, and a Master of Arts in English from Northwestern State. Her writing career began in her early twenties, encompassing poetry, fiction, and drama for both stage and radio. Since relocating to Florida in 2008, she has continued her educational work as a writing studio coordinator and adjunct faculty member at tertiary institutions in Port St. Lucie, while maintaining strong ties to Jamaica.

Coke has published four books. Her debut poetry collection, "The Balm of Dusk Lilies," was released by the Jamaica Observer Literary Publications, followed by her second poetry volume, "Intersections," published by Peepal Tree Press in the UK. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications, including The Jamaica Observer Literary series, Bearing Witness 1, 2, and 3, Kunapipi (Journal of Postcolonial Writing), and The Caribbean Writer, which awarded her The Daily News Prize for Poetry. Her poem "Still I See" was featured in Jubilation, an anthology celebrating Jamaica's 50th independence anniversary.

In 2020, in collaboration with iUniverse, she published her teaching memoir, "The Spirit of Clovelly Park: Learning and Teaching at Kingston College." Her latest work, "When Banana Stains Fade: A Jamaican Family Saga of Adversity and Redemption," published by Black Rose Writing in April 2024, is described by Coke as a tribute to the resilience and courage of the Jamaican family.

Copies of "When Banana Stains Fade" are available from the author at (772) 800-2796, francesmariecoke.com, major booksellers including Amazon and Barnes & Noble (in paperback and e-book formats) and the publisher's website, Black Rose Writing.

Many, Louisiana, journalist, historian and author **Robert Gentry** has released a new book, "The Stranger Who Called Himself God."

"For 30 days in June 1896, a stranger came to Many, Louisiana, and said he was God. He helped folks. He preached. He practiced good. He was arrested and brought to court and the judge ruled him insane. The sheriff was ordered to take him to the East Louisiana Hospital for the Insane at Jackson, Louisiana. He never made it there. This true novel tells it like it might have been.

"The events of June 1896 in the sleepy, little town of Many, Louisiana, are told through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy, who displays both the innocence of sheltered, rural life and wisdom beyond his years. Well-known and obscure history is presented around the visit of a stranger who came to town and claimed he was God. Gentry's work explores themes of faith and hypocrisy as well as the complex, yet simple uncertainties God's potential presence stirs among a community simply doing their best to survive."

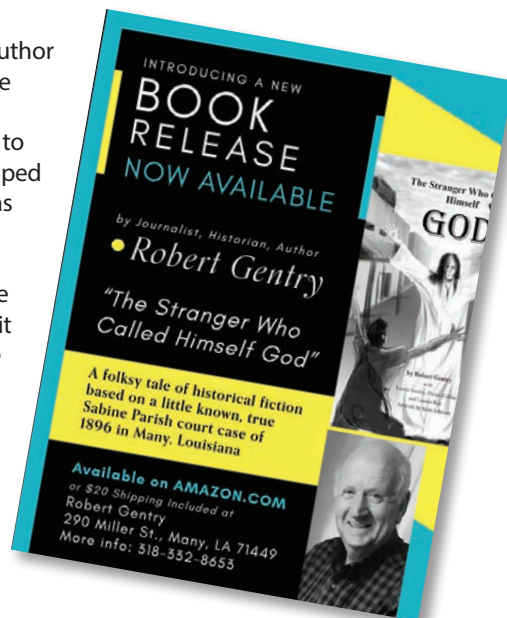
The book is available on Amazon and can also be ordered by mail.

Gentry (1964) began running The Sabine Index in 1964, later purchased the paper and ran it until it was sold in 2011. Over the years he won numerous awards from the Louisiana Press Association and continues to write a popular weekly column, "Observations." Gentry has been active in civic and government affairs and served as advisor to several political candidates.

In 2023, he was named one of NSU's Distinguished Communications Professionals. In 2020, Gentry was inducted as a member of the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and in 2013 he became the 16th person voted into the Sabine Hall of Fame.

Many of his writings, research materials, photos, Louisiana political and country music mementos are now in the collections of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Northwestern, the Noel Memorial Library Archives at Louisiana State University – Shreveport and at Hill Memorial Library Archives at LSU, Baton Rouge.

For more information on "The Stranger Who Called Himself God," contact Gentry at (318) 332-8653.



Writer **Susan Sands** has new titles to announce.

Sands has written over a dozen Southern novels and contributed to several anthologies with other authors working with multiple publishers. Her Louisiana Bayou Series, set in fictional Cypress Bayou but loosely based on Natchitoches, was released in 2022 and 2024. Upcoming titles include "Her Missing Pieces" (August 2024), "A Georgia Christmas" (Part of A Southern Christmas anthology out in November 2024), book three (Title TBD) in her Moonshine, Georgia, series (April 2025) and Moonshine book four (October 2025).

Sands graduated from NSU in 1989 with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She is married to Doug Sands, a 1989 graduate of NSU and a 1994 graduate of LSU School of Dentistry. They have three grown children and live in Roswell, Georgia, with their two empty-nest fur kids, Watson and Petunia.



Barron is MTD's 2024 Tire Dealer of the Year

Beth Barron, CEO of Chabill's Tire & Auto Service, is the recipient of Modern Tire Dealer magazine's 2024 Tire Dealer of the Year.

Barron, a 1992 graduate of NSU, has won the tire industry's oldest and most prestigious award. There are more than 29,000 eligible independent tire dealers in the U.S.

Barron graduated from NSU with a degree in political science. She was involved with Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority and vice president of the Student Government Association.

As part of the award, she appeared on the cover of Modern Tire Dealer's September issue, and she and Chabill's Tire & Auto Service are featured in an in-depth article in the magazine.

Barron is the second-generation leader of Chabill's Tire & Auto Service, a business based in her hometown of Morgan City.

Her father, the late Charley Gowland, was a founder of the business in September 1968. He and co-founder Billy Parker combined their first names and went to work selling tires and automotive service to customers.

After graduating from NSU, Barron returned home and worked her way through the departments in the company headquarters, gradually taking on additional responsibilities. Before her father died in 2019, Barron was named his successor as CEO.

Chabill's Tire & Auto Service has 18 retail locations throughout southern Louisiana and 150 employees. The company is mostly focused on retail tire sales and automotive services, though about 12 percent of its overall sales are tied to commercial clients.

Under Barron's watch, Chabill's Tire & Auto Service has grown and focused on maximizing the service it provides to customers. She hasn't drastically changed



the company's footprint or number of stores since taking on the role of CEO, but instead has dialed in on the processes and people in the operation and Chabill's Tire & Auto Service remains fully committed to providing customers with world-class customer service.

Luckie earns German media prize for international reporting

KLTV (Tyler, Texas) News Anchor **Lane Luckie** (2008) was honored as a recipient of a RIAS Media Prize award for his reports from Germany last September. The 32nd annual awards are presented by the RIAS Berlin Commission and celebrates some of the best of transatlantic broadcast journalism, including radio, television and digital media. The winners were celebrated earlier this month at a gala ceremony at Berlin's Meistersaal, a historic concert hall where the legendary David Bowie, Depeche Mode and U2 all recorded albums.

Luckie earned the RIAS Fellow Award for a series of seven spot news reports from Germany during a RIAS fellowship program to Cologne and Munich.

His entry received the following commendation.

"In a series of seven live reports from Germany to Tyler, Texas, Luckie delivers content that effectively examines the unique relationship between the United States and Germany. In one report from Munich, Luckie showcases the NFL's efforts to enhance its footprint in Germany thanks to a new deal and measurable growth abroad. During that report, Luckie demonstrated his knowledge of both countries and how America's favorite pastime continues to gain new ground. Especially impressive was that Luckie's live shots were performed individually as a 'one man band'; a sign that he is capable of writing, shooting, and editing his own content."



Special reporting assignments for KLTV have taken Luckie to Germany, Belgium, China, Poland and France.

The RIAS Media Prize jury, made up of six distinguished journalists from the United States and Germany, selected the five winners in TV, radio, digital media and fellow categories submitted from across the United States and Germany.

The German-American jury was comprised of Co-chair Michael Gargiulo (WNBC TV, New York), Co-chair Anja Heyde (ZDF/MDR, Berlin/Magdeburg) as well as Helge Fuhst (ARD, Hamburg), Melissa Eddy (The New York Times, Berlin), Larry Miller (WUSA9, Washington DC) and Christian Wilp (NTV/RTL, Berlin).

The RIAS Berlin Commission, created to keep alive the spirit of the legendary Radio in the American Sector (RIAS) broadcaster after it went off the air for good in 1993, has been operating exchange programs for more than 2,000 German and American broadcast journalists since 1993 with the aim of promoting transatlantic understanding in journalism.

"The RIAS Media Prize is awarded annually to journalists whose stories have helped strengthen the diversity of transatlantic dialogue and to deepen interest in German-American relations," a news release stated. "The awards are presented to reporting that promotes dialogue on similarities and differences in transatlantic relations. They also stand out thematically; take on new questions in a creative way; critically examine and make the diversity of social reality clear; contain interesting suggestions for transatlantic debate; encourage reflection on problems and solutions; question clichés about Germans and/or Americans; describe trends in everyday life that are of general interest; contribute in a special way to mutual curiosity and understanding; and are suitable to strengthen democratic and societal values."

Luckie joined KLTV, the ABC affiliate in Tyler in 2012. A native of Lake Charles, he earned a bachelor's in journalism at NSU in 2008.

Bosarge Scholarships honor former NSU Dean of Students

Two scholarships have been established to honor Dr. Frederick Charles Bosarge, a former Dean of Students at NSU.

The Dr. Frederick Charles Bosarge Endowed Scholarship in Student Personnel Services was created with a donation of \$100,000. The scholarship will be awarded to a second-year graduate student earning a master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education who maintains a 3.2 or higher grade point average. The Dr. Frederick Charles Bosarge Endowed Scholarship in Student Leadership was created with a donation of \$50,000. The scholarship will be awarded to a junior-level or higher student who maintains a 2.5 or higher grade point average. The scholarships were established by Jimmy Ferguson of Austin, Texas.

A native of Virginia, Ferguson attended Northwestern with four friends from his home region. It was during his undergraduate experience in Natchitoches that Ferguson came to understand the value of campus involvement and connections.

Bosarge was Ferguson's mentor. When Ferguson graduated, Bosarge offered him a graduate assistantship to study college student personnel at the master's degree level and serve as assistant to the dean of students. Ferguson accepted that opportunity and completed his master's degree at Northwestern State in May 1975. He then went to work at Arkansas Tech, spending 19 years there.



Cindi and Jimmy Ferguson

Dean of Men and Dean of Students. He completed a doctorate at Florida State University and returned to NSU to serve as Dean of Students and Chief Student Affairs Officer. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Board of Blue Key National Honor Society for his work in student development, health services and assessment. He retired from higher education in 2005.

Bosarge retired from his military career as a U.S. Army Colonel. He was inducted into the Northwestern Demon Regiment in 2012. He graduated from the Armor Officer Advanced Course in 1996 and volunteered from Vietnam where he served on Advisor Team 54, Kien Giang Province, IV Corps (Mekong Delta) as advisor to South Vietnamese Regional Force Infantry Companies and a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit. He participated in 52 ground, riverine and heliborne combat operations while concurrently serving as a assistant district advisor, a training center advisor and finally as assistant S-3 advisory at the province level.

Following his command of HHC, headquarters commandant, and assistant chief of staff, 1st Armored Division, he transferred to the Active Army Reserve. He served in the 4158th U.S. Army Reserve School in Shreveport as the USAR Liaison Officer to the LLARNG, Camp Beauregard, and adjunct faculty member, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. HE retired from the Army in 1999.

Bosarge's awards and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Commendation Medal.



Dr. Frederick Charles Bosarge

After Mr. Ferguson left the ATU staff in 1994, he and Mrs. Ferguson went on to become the owners of more than 30 McDonald's restaurants in central Texas. The Fergusons continue to support Arkansas Tech, as well as NSU.

A native of Alexandria, Bosarge was commander of the Black Knights Drill Team while earning a degree at NSU, graduating in 1961. He was designated

a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned an Armor officer. Col. Bosarge served with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, 4th Armored Division, West Germany, as a tank platoon leader, company executive officer and company commander and battalion S-4. He then served as Regimental S2 Air and Assistant S3 in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Mead, Maryland. On his departure he received a letter of appreciation from the NCOs, the second such honor in the history of the "Black Horse" Regiment, which dates to 1911.

After earning a Master of Education in Student Personnel Services from NSU in 1970, he served as NSU's director of Housing,

Hall Family Scholarship aims to assist women and minorities in ET

Dr. Tom and Katy Hall, formerly of Natchitoches, established an endowed scholarship at Northwestern State University that will benefit students pursuing degrees in the Department of Engineering Technology. The two hope the gift will enable women and minorities who are underrepresented in the engineering profession to be success in pursuing careers in engineering and technology.

Dr. Tom Hall served as head of the Department for 10 years while Katy Hall served in multiple departments around campus.

"We hope the recipients are motivated to do well in their studies in engineering technology and seek productive employment or continuing education upon graduation," Dr. Hall said.

The Halls arrived at NSU in 1995 after 26 years in the U.S. Army and continued service to NSU until retirement in 2010.

Katy Hall worked in the Registrar's Office, the Department of Mathematics and Electronic and Continuing Education. During that time, the CALL program was established in ECE and Mrs. Hall was one of the first advocates for advising and encouraging students who were returning to college after several years.

"She set up processes to stay in contact with those needing the most help," Dr. Hall said.

Dr. Hall served on faculty in the Department of Engineering Technology, the last 10 years as head of the department. As a new faculty member, he was instrumental in helping the department

to attain accreditation. He earned an Excellence in Teaching Award and was named Professor Emeritus in 2012.

Since retiring, the Halls have traveled extensively. They enjoy river cruises and, since COVID, Dr. Hall has taken up photography. They recently returned from a photo safari in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Hall continues to serve with ABET, the accrediting body for engineering and technology. He has been involved with ABET since 2001 and has progressed from program evaluator to commissioner to member of the executive committee. He was the chair of the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission from 2019-2020 and regularly goes out as a program evaluator, team chair or trainer.

Information on the Department of Engineering Technology is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/engrtech/>.



Dr. Tom and Katy Hall are pictured aboard a longship near Bazel, Switzerland, in May 2023.

Roper Golf Tournament continues to provide for HHP scholarships



NSU hosted the 42nd annual Chris Roper Golf Tournament at Northwestern State on April 27. "We had a great turnout with 16 teams participating," said Cristy Bernard, associate director of Development. "The tournament brought in over \$7,000." Proceeds from the tournament are used to fund two scholarships awarded each year to two deserving students who are enrolled in the Health and Human Performance Department. The tournament is held annually in memory of Chris Roper, a native of Camden, Arkansas, who was a senior and top golfer on the 1981 Demon Squad. He was a member of the Trans-American All-Conference team, placing ninth in the league tournament. He was killed in a traffic accident over Christmas break in 1982. Over the years, the tournament has generated enough money to support two scholarships that provide \$1,500 per semester for recipients.

Stewart Scholarship to benefit HHP students

Bill E. Stewart of Winnfield established the Bill E. Stewart Health and Human Performance Scholarship through a donation of \$20,000 to the NSU Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to a student already enrolled in an HHP program.

Stewart earned a degree at NSU in 1968. He was captain of the NSU Demon's Men's Basketball team that matched the best record in school history and won the Gulf States Conference championship. He was selected to be part of the Fantastic 50 portion of the Top 100 Demons of the Century roster selected in the 2012-13 basketball centennial celebration.

He was enshrined in the N-Club in 2004.

Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting <https://northwesternstatealumni.com/stewart-scholarship/>.



Durands continue support of NSU mathematics, education students

Dr. William Durand and Elaine Squyres Durand of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, created two scholarships through the Northwestern State University Foundation. The William W. Durand Mathematics Scholarship and the Elaine Squyres Durand Scholarship will benefit students pursuing degrees in mathematics and education. Both spent their careers invested in students and teaching.

Both scholarships were created with initial contributions of \$70,000. Friends who wish to contribute to fully endow the scholarships can do so at the following links.

Elaine Squyres Durand Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/durand-education-scholarship/>

William W. Durand Mathematics Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/durand-math-scholarship/>

The Elaine Squyres Durand Scholarship will benefit a student pursuing a degree in elementary education. The William W. Durand Scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in mathematics or math education. Both scholarships are awarded to freshmen-level students through graduation who must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average.

The couple previously supported NSU students when they created the Sam Shelton Math Scholarship through the NSU Foundation. Shelton was Mr. Durand's math teacher at NSU, as well as a close friend who encouraged him to pursue advanced degrees.

Dr. Durand came to NSU as a first-

generation college student. He felt a calling to teach as early as eighth grade, and planned to study music, but a 10th grade geometry class sealed his commitment to mathematics. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1962 and, at Shelton's encouragement, continued on to earn a master's in 1963.

Durand and his wife Elaine married in 1967, the year she earned a degree in elementary education at NSU.

Dr. Durand joined the faculty at Henderson State Teachers College, later named Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia in 1966 and completed his Ed.D. with emphasis in mathematics at Oklahoma State University in 1972.

While in Stillwater, Mrs. Durand taught in Cushing, Oklahoma. Returning to Henderson State, she earned a master's degree and elementary and secondary supervision certifications. She taught in kindergarten through third grade classrooms before becoming an elementary school principal in Bearden, Arkansas, where students' math scores were highest in the region. She also taught graduate classes at Henderson State. In 1997 she received honors from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and was featured on the cover of their national publication. In 1998, she received the Elementary Presidential Award in Mathematics. She retired after serving as principal in Bearden and in teacher supervision for Henderson State.

Meanwhile, Dr. Durand, "Dr. D" to his students, rose in the ranks at

Henderson State and became chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 1997.

In 1999, Dr. Durand received the Outstanding Teacher Award presented by the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America. He received the title of Distinguished Professor at Henderson in 2005. Dr. Durand was the 2015 recipient of the Willie Tate Meritorious Humanitarian Award, which honors those who define the word humanitarian, positively influence the betterment of the community and represent the meaning of the "Reddie Spirit." He received many federal grants to develop and offer summer mathematics workshops for elementary, middle school and secondary math teachers and was instrumental in organizing the Southwest Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Dr. Durand served as the official scorer for Henderson State basketball for over 40 years and is a tremendous supporter of Reddie Athletics. He assisted with counseling and tutoring of several student-athletes as well as making numerous financial donations. He retired in 2007 after 41 years of service to Henderson State, but continues to teach graduate and undergraduate math classes, as well as Sunday School and, as a Lay Leader for the United Methodist Church, fills in at churches when a pastor is away.

"I have taught math for 63 years and I am beginning my 64th year this semester. I love the classroom and working with students," he said.

THE NSU FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIPS.



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
 NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

Dr. Donald W. & Mikee Sue Hatley Liberal Arts Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/hatley-scholarship/>

Joseph Davis Jr. Memorial Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/joseph-davis-scholarship/>

Anne Barry Graves Endowed Superior Graduate Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/graves-scholarship/>

Dr. Marcus Jones First Generation Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/jones-scholarship/>

Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett GRIT Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/grit-scholarship/>

Dr. Robert Alost Memorial Scholarship
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/alost-scholarship/>



NSU announces 2024 N-Club Hall of Fame inductee class

One of the largest classes in the Northwestern State N-Club Hall of Fame's history will enter the school's athletic shrine in October.

The Hall will welcome 16 total inductees – two of whom could not make their initial ceremony – into its Class of 2024 during its 9 a.m. Oct. 26 induction ceremony ahead of the Homecoming football game against Lamar.

Entering the Hall are a pair of track and field All-Americans, a two-time All-American linebacker and a handful of Southland Conference champions across a smattering of sports.

Linebacker Jamall Johnson is the seventh of nine Demon football players to earn multiple All-American honors, doing

so in 2003 and 2004. He is joined in the induction class by fellow linebacker Kurt Rodriguez, who owns the school freshman record in tackles (111) and topped the 400-tackle mark in a three-time All-Southland Conference career.

Sprinter Edgar Cooper helped lead Northwestern State to a pair of conference championships and earned All-American honors in 1987 as part of NSU's 4x100 meter relay team. He is one of two track and field All-Americans entering the hall, joined by javelin standout Samantha Ford Hatten, a 2003 All-American who twice qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Inductees who captured Southland Conference team championships during

their NSU careers are tennis' Olga Bazhanova Moore, football wide receiver Nathan Black, men's basketball's Michael Byars-Dawson, women's basketball's Diamond Cosby, soccer's Hillarie Marshall Coleman, softball's Shannon Straty and baseball's Troy Conkle and Brad Hanson. High jumper Janice Miller Moore, an individual Southland champion in her signature event, rounds out the 2024 competitive-ballot inductees.

That group will be joined by Distinguished Service Award winner Carlos Treadway, a standout football tight end, in the 2024 class. Joining them for the induction are 2023 electees Gene Tennison (football) and Matt Donner (baseball).





NSU head baseball coach Chris Bertrand, David Thornton, Jennifer Thornton, head softball coach Jenny Fuller and Director of Athletics Kevin Bostian celebrated the announcement of the Thornton family's \$1.9 million donation to the baseball and softball programs.

Thornton gift for Demon baseball, softball is 'game-changing'

Thanks to the largest one-time gift in NSU athletics' history, sizeable improvements are coming to NSU's baseball and softball facilities.

A \$1.9 million donation from the Thornton family announced Sept. 10 will provide new artificial turf at both Brown-Stroud Field and the Lady Demon Diamond, giving the university the first two no-fill turf fields in the United States.

In addition to turfing the fields, the donation will pad baseball's outfield wall and overhaul the current lighting system at the softball complex.

"As a department, we are overwhelmingly grateful for the support of the Thornton family," NSU Director of Athletics Kevin Bostian said. "The Thorntons have been tremendous stewards for Northwestern State, and this is another example of their generosity. This gift is a game changer for two of our programs, each of whom will have one of the best facilities in the Southland Conference in their respective sports with these additions."

The Thorntons long have been passionate supporters of Northwestern, creating scholarships to support students in computer information systems, nursing, business, fine arts, accounting and criminal justice in the past decade.

Both Jennifer and David Thornton are NSU graduates with David earning a degree in computer information systems in 2007 while Jennifer has an associates degree in nursing (2010), a bachelor's degree in nursing (2013) and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (2022). They are the parents of Tenley (14), Taylen (12) and Cooper (3).

The partnership with GeoSurfaces will bring the Baton Rouge-based company's PIVOT no infill turf to a U.S. sports facility for the first time.

"We want to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Thornton family for this incredible display of generosity," NSU head baseball coach Chris Bertrand said. "The impact that this project will have on Demon Baseball is immeasurable. Demons of the present and future will have a first-class facility and experience like no other. As we continue to build Demon baseball in the new landscape of college baseball, our facility becoming what it is will be a focal point in bringing student-athletes to our university. We have the Thorntons to thank for this incredible addition to us attracting people to Demonland. Our staff, our players, and our fans are chomping at the bit to see the new B-Stro."

Both Bertrand and first-year softball head coach Jenny Fuller will serve as spokespeople for the GeoSurfaces brand.

Fuller will begin her first year as Northwestern State's coach with a new-look facility.

Both facilities will be ready for the 2025 seasons, which begin in February.



In Memory

1948 – Margie Knight Tipton, June 8, 2024, Leesville	1964 – William Randall Martin, Aug. 24, 2024, Ashland	1978 – Donna Smith Williams, Sept. 3, 2024, Leesville
1950 – Katherine Hawkins Roberts, Jan. 9, 2024, Flowood, Mississippi	1965 – Linda Mona Koss, June 17, 2024, Pearland, Texas	1980 – Yvonne Lemoine Deen, Aug. 22, 2024, Fort Worth, Texas
1954 – Betty Boydston Carpenter, June 5, 2024, Idaho Falls, Idaho	1965 – Pat Stier, Aug 2, 2024, Houston	1982 – Richard Earl Foshee Jr., June 25, 2024, Natchitoches
1954 – Tynes Hildebrand, July 28, 2024, Dallas	1966 – Gary D. Salter, May 27, 2024, Shreveport	1984 – Donald Thomas Owsley, July 8, 2024, Littleton, Colorado
1955 – Earl Thomas Haynes, July 24, 2024, Bossier City	1968 – David Bedard, Jan. 12, 2019, Bossier City	1984 – William Etheredge Hogan, Sept. 1, 2024, Lake Charles
1955 – Alice Amelia Zenter West, July 10, 2024, Center, Texas	1968 – Michael A. Murphy, July 26, 2024, Pleasant Hill	1987 – Sandra Gail Varnell, July 17, 2023, Gainesville, Florida
1956 – Arthur Joseph Duhon Sr., May 14, 2024, Bossier City	1969 – Sandra Slack Prewitt, June 12, 2024, Baton Rouge	1988 – Elaine Waters Atkins, July 26, 2024, Winnfield
1957 – Louise Greer Jacobson, July 25, 2024, Lake Charles	1969 – John Berry Guillet, Sept. 1, 2024, Natchitoches	1988 – Deborah Kay Trull Taylor, Aug. 31, 2024, Gloster
1957 – Ted Edward Duggan Sr., Sept. 1, 2024, Natchitoches	1962 – James Turner Gentry, July 3, 2024, Shreveport	1995, 2002 – Adelia “Angel” Williamson Alexander, June 25, 2024, Benton
1959 – Barbara B. Cox, May 19, 2024, Ringgold	1962 – Dr. Frank Mobley, June 12, 2024, Winnfield	1996 – Joseph Christopher Rhysans, August 12, 2024, New Orleans
1959 – Melba Ferguson Simmons, Aug. 1, 2024, Bunkie	1962 – James Turner Gentry, July 3, 2024, Shreveport	2004 – Dr. Cory Cordova, Aug. 8, 2024, Lafayette
1959 – Mary Louise Ferguson Spencer, June 4, 2024, Shreveport	1962 – Margie Alice Murphy Trichell, Aug. 20, 2024, Coushatta	Barbara Jordan Evans Davidson, May 21, 2024, Alexandria
1960, 1963 – Dr. Joe Cornett, July 8, 2024, Rogers, Arkansas	1963 – Doris Jones Copeland, Aug. 17, 2024, Diamondhead, Florida	W. Bryan Tally, Ed.D., June 13, 2024, Nokomis, Florida
1960 – David George Erskine, July 26, 2024, Round Rock, Texas	1965 – Dr. Mary Beth McGee Whatley, July 22, 2024, Shreveport	David Scott Gaudin, May 24, 2024, Baron Rouge
1961, 1963 – Julius M. Burkett, June 30, 2024, Nacogdoches	1967 – Charlotte Anderson Rascoe, Aug. 31, Mansfield	Chadwick Jerod “Rod” Nelson II, July 21, 2024, Cane River
1961 – Lynda Williams Crane, June 7, 2024, Helotes, Texas	1968 – Ronald Eugene Cagle, Aug. 19, 2024, Shreveport	Casandra Louise “Cassie” Magnum Smith, Aug. 6, 2024, DeQuincy
1962 – Robert Bevill, Jr., June 22, 2024, Granbury, Texas	1971 – Joseph D. Davis Jr., July 1, 2024, Jarreau	Patricia Johnson Clark, July 2, 2024, Provencal <i>Mrs. Clarke was a former associate professor and director of Field Instruction in the Department of Social Work.</i>
1963 – Dr. David Thomas Henry, Aug. 2, 2024, Shreveport	1971 – Judy Patterson Moore, July 1, 2024, Shreveport	Detective Doug Prescott, Aug. 10, 2024, Dodson <i>Det. Prescott served with University Police for many years.</i>
1963 – John Barclay Whitaker, Feb. 13, 2024, Natchitoches	1974 – Lynda Sue Evans Mathis, June 14, 2024, Pelican	Ed Evans, Sept. 4, 2024, Natchitoches <i>Mr. Evans was retired director of sports medicine for NSU Athletics.</i>
1964 – Joe Dow, Aug. 18, 2024, Pasadena, Texas	1978 – Robert Vogel, Newport, Minnesota	

Guess Who

In 1970, gentlemen served as officers on the Interfraternity Council to fulfill four objectives: to promote harmony and a cooperation among the five social fraternities on campus, to foster and maintain a high respect for fraternity and interfraternity relationships, to maintain high scholastic, moral, social and personal standards and to compile and enforce rules for improving the fraternity system on campus. **Can you name them?** If so, email your answers to jacksonl@nsula.edu with your name, city of residence and the year you graduated.

The movie extras pictured in the locker room scene with actress Olympia Dukakis during filming of "Steel Magnolias" were Rob Bruetch, Brad Arnold, Steve Wolfe, Scott Haley, Winton Howard and Sidney Rogers.



Rhonda Nelms Ruddick (1989), West Monroe, guessed correctly.



Looking Back



The 2024 Homecoming celebration Oct. 24-26 is a commemoration of the 140th anniversary of Northwestern State University, which was founded as the Louisiana State Normal School, specifically for the training of teachers, in a time when public education was of increasing interest across the United States.

Normal schools were based on the French model, the *Écoles normales*, which related to the norms and standards of teaching.

State Representative Leopold Caspari, the "Father of the Normal School," proposed that the school be located in Natchitoches and marshaled the support civic and business leaders to purchase

the 100-acre site of the former Academy of the Sacred Heart with the once-grand Bullard home and offer it as the location for the Louisiana State Normal School.

The selection was announced in October 1884 and a short, two-month session began in March 1885 with an enrollment of 60 students seeking three-year teaching certificates.

In 1904, the condemned Bullard mansion was dismantled, leaving four of the white columns that once supported the east gable still standing. One of those columns was razed in 1937. The three that remain are a recognized symbol of the university.

Class of 2028



Northwestern State University welcomed over 1,100 freshmen representing 264 U.S. high schools and 55 international high schools for the Fall 2024 semester. The Class of 2028 includes students from 59 parishes in Louisiana, 11 states outside Louisiana and 20 countries. Collectively the class has over \$8 million in scholarships and TOPS Awards, 70 valedictorians and salutatorians, an average ACT score of 21.19, eight sets of twins and a set of triplets.